

Safety Alert

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Alert

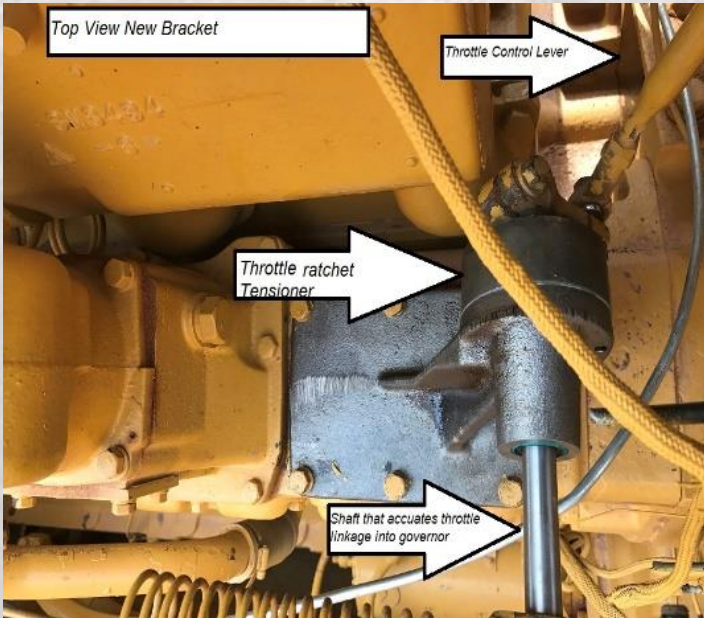
A 594 Side-boom, that was part of a rental fleet, experienced a mechanical failure on a recent project that resulted in loss of throttle control. This was caused by the breaking of the throttle ratchet mounting bracket that mounts just behind the governor onto the fuel pump of the machine. This bracket is located on the operators left, toward the rear of the motor. It can be located by moving the hand throttle back and forth and noticing where the linkage connects to a small shaft in the bracket. When this bracket breaks, the hand throttle is essentially useless and the throttle is at the open position. In the event of this bracket malfunctioning, the awareness to the lack of functionality of the throttle by the operator is key. This is especially true due to the varying degrees of operator experience and familiarity with this machine.

Actions Required Immediately

- Communication to side boom operators in weekly safety meetings to the potential of this malfunction and evasive action of disengaging transmission by selecting neutral and engaging brake.
- Evaluation of proper throttle function by the mechanic and/or operator to limit the amount of force applied to this bracket, this may require replacement of the throttle ratchet assembly.
- Increased awareness to operators and mechanics during inspections of these machines to pay special attention to this bracket for stress cracks.
- Assessment by responsible personnel onsite of previous bracket repair that may require a new factory bracket installed.



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